



# Ep i News

San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc.

August 2020

Volume 45 Number 8

## ‘Punch Bowl’

**Parentage: Unknown**

**Hybridizer: Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens**

**Registrant: Ethel M. Hurst (Hurst Nursery)**

**Size: Extra Large**

**Photo by Robert Kuettle**



**San Diego Epiphyllum Society, Inc. (SDES)**

P.O. Box 126127

San Diego, CA 92112-6127

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Editors— **Jerry Moreau & Linda Sinkovic**

[EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org)

Design & layout by Jerry Moreau

**Membership:**

**New memberships** as well as **renewals** can be processed at our secure web site: [Click here](#)



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If you have moved or recently changed your physical OR email address, please update your new address so that you can continue to receive your newsletter without interruption.

Send it to:

San Diego Epiphyllum Society c/o Membership  
PO Box 126127 San Diego, CA 92112-6127

OR email [Membership@sdepis.org](mailto:Membership@sdepis.org)

OR for a faster response mail directly to Beth Jackson  
Membership Secretary—her address can be found in the membership roster

General Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Rm 101, Pre-meeting workshop at 7:00 in Rm 104. Board Meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in Rm 104. Members are welcome to attend the board meeting. Meetings are held in the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park.

News of interest to SDES membership, brief articles about our members, or our community are welcome. Not sure? Send it anyway. Email Jerry, editor at: [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org) by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's *Epi News*. Submit your articles, announcements, events, photos, or other items of interest. Share events of other organizations and other items of interest to members. The newsletter is usually, but not always, produced to go out first of the month.

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**Editor's Note:** The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary art on the cover was created by Sal Leon, a local San Diego artist. His art will be on the cover for 2020.

**Calendar of Events**

- August 12 General Meeting
- 26 Board Meeting
  
- September 9 General Meeting
- 23 Board Meeting

Due to COVID-19 all meetings are held online.

For the up to date calendar check out:  
<http://sdepis.org/news-information/calendar/>



'August Moon'  
Photo by Jerry Moreau

# President's Corner



Our blooming season is about over and I see that my dragon fruit "Neon" has had a good year. I will be enjoying some nice fruit later this summer. Of course, all of my flowers are now just a memory but what a memory -- some new ones blooming this year for the first time! Since we must stay at home I was able to enjoy the flowers more. As

summer continues, I am sure we will all be out fertilizing and checking our plants for sufficient water.

We had a wonderful program in July from Andy Cuffel of Cuffel Farms. He told us all we could ever want to know about Tillandsia. He

discussed proper Tillandsia care, growth cycles, and how you can best incorporate them into your home and garden. I enjoyed his humor and presentation, and he brought some samples of Tillandsias for us to enjoy.

With our current "stay at home orders" please don't forget friends and family -- give them a call or send them a nice card. In my recent illness I received several nice cards and they did cheer me up. This too shall pass and we will once again be able to meet and share our love of epies.

This month we are looking for people to serve on the nominating committee. I have enjoyed my time on the Board serving as your President but I am looking to relax next year.

Until next time be well and be safe,

*Cindy*



## Society Officers, Directors, & Coordinators

President	Cindy Decker 619-972-9664 <a href="mailto:President@sdepis.org">President@sdepis.org</a>	Sales Table & Events	Cindy Decker <a href="mailto:Salestable@sdepis.org">Salestable@sdepis.org</a> <a href="mailto:SalesEvents@sdepis.org">SalesEvents@sdepis.org</a>
1st Vice President Programs	Patricia Frank <a href="mailto:Programs@sdepis.org">Programs@sdepis.org</a>	Garden Caravan	Mildred Mikas <a href="mailto:GardenCaravan@sdepis.org">GardenCaravan@sdepis.org</a>
2nd Vice President Mother's Day Show	Gretchen Ward <a href="mailto:MothersDay@sdepis.org">MothersDay@sdepis.org</a>	Holiday Banquet	Mildred Mikas <a href="mailto:Banquet@sdepis.org">Banquet@sdepis.org</a>
Treasurer	Dennis Hughes 619-851-4960 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@sdepis.org">Treasurer@sdepis.org</a>	Internet / Webmaster	Gilbert Hatfield <a href="mailto:Webmaster@sdepis.org">Webmaster@sdepis.org</a>
Recording Secretary	Sue Aldrich 858-442-0093 <a href="mailto:Recording@sdepis.org">Recording@sdepis.org</a>	Workshops	Ron Crain <a href="mailto:Workshops@sdepis.org">Workshops@sdepis.org</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Interim — Beth Jackson <a href="mailto:Corresponding@sdepis.org">Corresponding@sdepis.org</a>	Safari Park	Jerry Moreau <a href="mailto:SafariPark@sdepis.org">SafariPark@sdepis.org</a>
Membership Secretary	Beth Jackson 858-692-0314 <a href="mailto:Membership@sdepis.org">Membership@sdepis.org</a>	CSSA Affiliate Rep	Jerry Moreau <a href="mailto:CSSA@sdepis.org">CSSA@sdepis.org</a>
Director 2020-21	Gilbert Hatfield <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	EpiNews Editors	Jerry Moreau & Linda Sinkovic <a href="mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org">EpiNews@sdepis.org</a>
Director 2020-21	Mildred Mikas 760-690-1124 <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	Research & Education SDBGF Rep	Linda Sinkovic <a href="mailto:Research@sdepis.org">Research@sdepis.org</a> Pat Neal 858-565-0340 <a href="mailto:SDBGF@sdepis.org">SDBGF@sdepis.org</a>
Director 2020-21	David Cheever <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	Librarian	Marie Dempewolf 619-573-5060 <a href="mailto:Librarian@sdepis.org">Librarian@sdepis.org</a>
Director 2019-20	Ron Crain <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	Historian	Gretchen Ward <a href="mailto:Historian@sdepis.org">Historian@sdepis.org</a>
Director 2019-20	Paula Reynolds 619-224-2194 <a href="mailto:Directors@sdepis.org">Directors@sdepis.org</a>	Raffle Table	Paula Reynolds 619-224-2194 Dennis Hughes <a href="mailto:Raffles@sdepis.org">Raffles@sdepis.org</a>
Immediate Past Pres.	Tim Paule 619-443-0826 <a href="mailto:PastPresident@sdepis.org">PastPresident@sdepis.org</a>	Hospitality	Barb Alvarez <a href="mailto:Hospitality@sdepis.org">Hospitality@sdepis.org</a>
		Name Tags	Gerry Mikas 760-690-1124 <a href="mailto:Store@sdepis.org">Store@sdepis.org</a>
		Refreshments	David Cheever <a href="mailto:Refreshments@sdepis.org">Refreshments@sdepis.org</a>
		Publicity	Terence Brashear <a href="mailto:Publicity@sdepis.org">Publicity@sdepis.org</a>

# COVID-19 UPDATE

As we all know, we are still maintaining the "Shelter in Place" procedures. Things are starting to open but not the Casa Del Prado. At this time no dates have been given when they will reopen. We have no access to the rooms during this time and therefore all SDES in-person activities are canceled. If you have any questions or concerns please contact any board member.

**The August general in-person meeting is canceled however look for information from the membership secretary about an online meeting/program.**



With the spread of COVID-19, we find ourselves in a time of global uncertainty. Our hearts go out to everyone impacted. Please keep safe and take care of yourself. We care about you and your families' health and wellness. Don't forget you have the membership roster to reach out for support during this time of crisis.

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. Please consult with your health care provider about additional steps you may be able to take to protect yourself.

From the Center for Disease Control — How to protect yourself and loved ones.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>



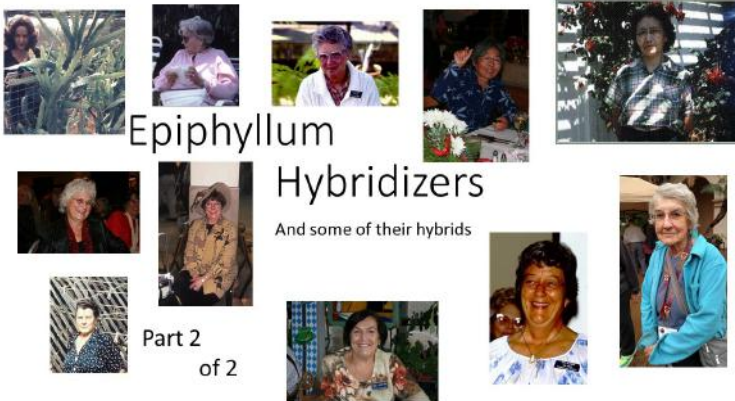
# Meeting Programs

by Patricia Frank

**July Program:** Andy Cuffel of Cuffel Farms presented a wonderful program in July on the epiphyte; *Tillandsias*. Found growing in the Americas. This program was enjoyed via Zoom by many. If you missed it check out the SDES webpage in the membership section to view it. .



**August Program:** This month's program will feature more women who hybridize epies. This presentation will be part 2 of 2. Come enjoy a program with hybrids from such notables as Theresa Monmonier, Evelyn Shiraki, Clarion Steele, and more. Mark your calendars for August 12th. Look for a zoom link via email from our Membership Secretary Beth Jackson.



## From Our Webmaster

Have you checked out the SDES website? If you haven't you should; you can find a lot of information and pictures. The SDES website is viewed worldwide; last month our site had visits from individuals located in over 18 countries! Many visitors viewed our site multiple times. This is largely due to the support provided by society members.

Although many people from around the world can access some good information from the website there is a special section that is for members only. This is another benefit just for being a member of SDES. In the members only section you will find stuff such as:

- Epiphyllum Blooms
- Newsletter Library
- Gardening Tips
- Epiphyllum Care
- Meeting Presentations
- Off-Season Bloomers
- SDES Contacts

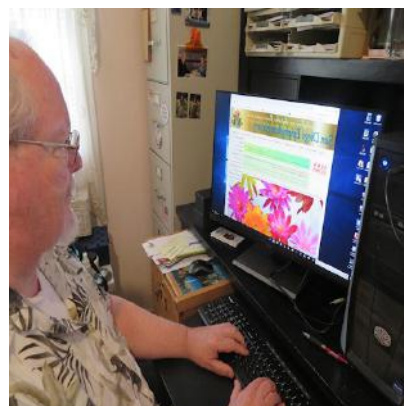
You will have to enter a password to access the members only section. The password (which changes every three months) is sent to you via email when you get your monthly newsletter.

The Epi Bloom Catalog or picture gallery is due to the hard work of Janice Wakefield. We are adding pictures all the time. If you have a picture or can take a picture of a registered epi which is not in the picture gallery please submit it so we can make the Bloom Catalog even better.

The library contains all the past EpiNews letters listed by the year and month they were published. These may be viewed and printed.

All of this and more is available only to SDES members. <http://www.Sdepis.org>.

Submit all pictures and other comments or suggestions for the website to Gilbert at [webmaster@sdepis.org](mailto:webmaster@sdepis.org)



# Safari Park Epi Collection & Display

by Jerry Moreau



It's August already! Time does fly by. We have been busy at the park. We finished fertilizing with grow fertilizer. Now the plants can regain their strength after blooming, grow, and prepare for the next blooming season. We are always weeding and repotting plants. We have been taking care of the newly acquired plants from the collection of Phil Peck. We got about 20 plants; sadly some of them were not in the best condition. One plant is 'Triomphe des Anthieux' a hybrid from 1898 registered by F. A. Walton. It's described as a large flower that's bronzey red with cerise edge. It has a long, scaly tube and is cup and saucer form with tall flat gray-green growth. It's

supposed to be fragrant. I hope it blooms correctly! Hopefully next spring we will find out.

The weather has been warm to hot. We work until we are ready to leave which is one of the perks of volunteering. We have had blooms through July.



Helping out since we've been allowed back: Barb Alvarez, Thurston Bow, Sandra Chapin, David Cheever, Ron & Velma Crain, Dean De Libertis, Marie Dempewolf, Heidi Lerner, Jerry & Betsy Markle, Jerry Moreau, Beth Jackson, Heather Jackson, Ellen McCollum, Tim Paule, and Gretchen Ward.



*Marie Dempewolf above and Sandra Chapin right repotting plants at the park in July*



*'Golden Sunburst' and 'Grape Ice' blooming in July at the park  
Photos by Jerry Moreau*



**Details of How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park**  
can be found on our website. Click on <http://sdepis.org/volunteer/epi-house/>

## Welcome New Members!!!

Abby Belknap, Los Osos, CA  
 Mary Crappy, Portsmouth, RI  
 Amy Evans, National City, CA  
 Hong Hoang, Petaluma, CA  
 Richard Nagy, San Diego, CA  
 Quyen Robinson, La Mesa, CA  
 Casey Woodall, San Diego, CA  
 Lysa Woodall, San Diego, CA



‘Welcome’

Photo by Jose Almandoz

## Donations Help Build SDES

In these unknown and trying times we have received donations from two non-members. They donated cuttings to help the future of SDES. These cuttings will be used for sales and growing for the future. We would like to acknowledge and thank Chitra Davis and Ester Mendoza. We are grateful for their contribution to the society.

## Get Well Wishes

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers.

Chuck Everson, Mel Horstman,  
 Dick Kohlschreiber & Emily Lovci

And to be mindful of any member, family, or friends who are suffering at this time of Shelter-In-Place.

May we all be well and safe  
 until we meet again

## Want/Wish List

If you have epies on your wish list that you are looking for it is possible someone in the Society has it and is willing to share a cutting or two with you.

As a service and benefit to members this list is being included in the newsletter. Send your wish list along with contact information to the editors to get it added here.

**Sandra Chapin:** [sandraleewc@gmail.com](mailto:sandraleewc@gmail.com)

‘Elf’, ‘Elf Eyes’, ‘Elf Queen’, ‘Elfe’, ‘Elfenbein’, ‘Elfentanz’, ‘Elfentraum’, ‘Elfenzauber’, ‘Elf-Fire’, ‘Elfi Paetz’, ‘Elfie’, ‘Elfin’, ‘Elfin Kind’

**Doug Gates:** [douggates@gmail.com](mailto:douggates@gmail.com)

*Epiphyllum laui*, *E. phyllanthus*, *E. baueri*

**Beth Jackson:** [bethjackso@yahoo.com](mailto:bethjackso@yahoo.com) ‘Clara Ann’

**Bridget Kleindienst:** [Bkleindienst13@gmail.com](mailto:Bkleindienst13@gmail.com)

‘Baby Cake’, ‘Crystal Claret’, ‘Heather’

**Tom Moore:** [phyllocactus1952@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllocactus1952@yahoo.com)

‘Amaranthinus’, ‘Coopermanni’, ‘Daniela Paetz’, ‘Desert Thorns’, ‘Devauxii’, ‘Hansei’, ‘Helenae’, ‘Ignescens’, ‘Jacques Courant’, ‘Jenkinsonii’, ‘Jennifer’, ‘Johnson’s Beauty’, ‘Splendidus’

**Jerry Moreau:** [jerrysdca@cox.net](mailto:jerrysdca@cox.net) ‘Pink Jeroma’

**Virginia Payne** [vpayne22@gmail.com](mailto:vpayne22@gmail.com)

‘Clarity’s Lanaiakea’, ‘Over the Top’, ‘Ruby Pinwheel’, ‘Vanilla Sunset’, ‘Venetian Affair’

**Paula Reynolds:** [paularey@aol.com](mailto:paularey@aol.com) ‘Sunset Cliffs’, ‘Voltaire’

**William Thomas:** [wmst@cox.net](mailto:wmst@cox.net) *Selenicereus anthonyanus*, ‘Yellowhead’

**Janice Wakefield:** [jwakefield@cox.net](mailto:jwakefield@cox.net)

‘Bobby Brynildsen’, ‘Jasa’

Mel Horstman center with  
 Gerry & Mildred Mikas.

We found out that Mel  
 is recovering from  
 several falls.

If anybody has any more  
 information or contacts for  
 Mel please let us know.



# An Epiphyte is an Epiphyte is an Epiphyte

Reprinted from *Epi News* Vol 37, No. 6

By Ron Crain

At our SDES Mother's Day Show the other day someone asked my brother Don and I if epis are closely related to bromeliads. The answer was no, they are not closely related. But, they do have a common ancestor if you go back far enough, like one hundred million years or so.

You see, both cacti and bromeliads are flowering and seed-producing plants, belonging to the class *Angiospermae*. Two main branches of the flowering plants are the *Monocotyledonae*, those plants that have seeds containing a single embryonic cotyledon or "seed leaf," and the *Dicotyledonae*, flowering plants that have seeds containing two seed leaves. Some members of the *Monocotyledonae* or monocots, for short are the grasses and grains, including corn and the large and diverse family of plants, the *Bromeliaceae* or *Bromeliads*. Everyone knows what a corn seedling looks like when it germinates, pushing up through the soil its lonely, grass-like seed leaf. Bromeliads do this too.

Plants in the *Dicotyledonae* or dicots include familiar vegetable garden plants like watermelons and beans and also the large and equally diverse family, the *Cactaceae*, which includes, of course our favorite group of plants, the epiphytic cacti. When beans and watermelon seeds sprout, you at first see their twin seed leaves emerge from the soil. All cacti do the same thing. So, cacti and bromeliads are on separate main branches of the flowering plants' "tree of life." The fossil record indicates that the monocots and dicots diverged evolutionarily more than one hundred million years ago.

As different as they are, the bromeliad and cactus families have something in common. Each

large family includes both epiphytic and terrestrially growing species. In fact, many or most bromeliad species grow epiphytically. A notable exception to this is the terrestrial genus *Puya*, with their exotically colored flowers of blue-green, teal and blue-black. In the cactus family however, the epiphytic species are but a tiny subset of the huge family of mostly terrestrial, mostly desert dwelling plants that most people who do not grow epis picture in their mind when they hear the word cactus.



*Rhipsalis paradoxa*

Incidentally, an epiphyte or more commonly, an "air-plant" is not a name for a genetically related



A tree in Tobago with  
Bromeliads and *Rhipsalis* most  
likely *R. baccifera*  
Photo by Linda Sinkovic

grouping of plants or a taxon or clade as the plant scientists call them, but is a way of growing or a "growth habit," that is common to genetically diverse and unrelated types of plants. Epiphytes grow upon another plant, like a tree, non-parasitically. In addition to cacti and bromeliads there are many other types of plants that share this growth habit: ferns and staghorns which reproduce by means of spores and are thereby not flowering

plants at all and so are even less closely related to cacti and bromeliads than cacti and bromeliads are related to each other; mosses; most members of the huge orchid family or *Ochidacea*; some fungi; even



*Puya* in Don Patterson's  
front yard  
Photo by Jerry Moreau

## Epiphyte continued

a few species of the ancient cycads, flowering plants that existed BEFORE either the monocots or dicots did, grow epiphytically.

If you get online and do a Google Images search on the phrase “epiphytic cactus,” you will find a few photographic examples of cacti species growing epiphytically in their native environment, sometimes on the same tree with their neighbors, the bromeliads. If you study them closely, in some of these pictures, you can see, remarkably, how little material is collected around the roots. These roots seem to be almost completely exposed upon the naked bark of the trees that support them.

Upon viewing these photos, you might ask yourself something like, “If these plants do not rob nutrients and moisture in a parasitic way from the



*A tree in Tobago with Bromeliads*  
Photo by Linda Sinkovic

trees that hold them up, what-in-the-heck do they live on?”

This helps to illustrate the very low -nutrient environment in which most epiphytes grow. What these pictures don't show is that in these environs, the humidity remains very high and that the plants receive moisture in the form of rainfall, at least in the wet half of the year, nearly every single day. The high humidity helps to

keep the plants from drying out too severely in the heat when it is not raining. The frequent rainfall helps to bring fresh nutrients, albeit in low concentrations to the roots on a regular basis. The lack of a consolidated mass of soggy, rotting plant material around the roots prevents the roots from



*In George French's yard he had a section where he grew a variety of plants. Here he has epies, staghorn fern, hoys, orchids, and other plants*

remaining too wet. Being situated off the ground, upon the side of a tree also prevents excess water from sitting around the roots.

Here in sunny and dry southern California we cannot in a practical way grow hybrid epis or many other epiphytic plants like bromeliads on the side of a tree with little or nothing around their roots. At least, not on a large scale anyway. The humidity is nearly always too low, there's not enough rainfall and we cannot practically irrigate and/or mist every day. So, we have to approximate a sort of passable environment for our plants. We grow them under shade, in containers with potting soil packed around their roots in an unnatural way, water them infrequently, maybe misting the stems in very hot weather or during a Santa Ana wind event, and feed them, hopefully with dilute concentrations of fertilizer. The potting soil keeps the humidity around the roots higher than that of the dry ambient air. This allows us to water less frequently than the plants receive rainfall in their native environment so that the roots don't rot. Many of our hybrid plants were originated right here in southern California and because of this, I think they have been subjected to a kind of natural selection and so are somewhat suited to this drier climate than their species ancestors. I'm guessing they might not do very well if they were reintroduced to the environment of their progenitors.

## Now is the Time

- ✓ **Groom plants.** Remove dried up or scarred foliage. Keep debris out of branches and containers.
- ✓ **Protect plants from extreme sun and wind.**
- ✓ **Monitor humidity.** Mist when necessary.
- ✓ **Do not let soil dry out.**
- ✓ **Protect developing fruit.** Some birds love to eat them.
- ✓ **Bait for snails and slugs.**

# Take away from July's presentation *Tillandsia*

By Andy Cuffel



*Tillandsia*, or air plants as they are commonly known, comprise one of the most diverse genera of plants in existence. These plants are highly unique for their ability to grow without soil or a pot, making them very versatile in the

way they can be displayed and enjoyed. Below you will find some general guiding principals that will help keep your air plants happy and healthy. It is always encouraged to do research on the specific species you own to ensure care is tailored to the needs of your air plants.

## Where the heck did these things come from?

*Tillandsia* are evergreen, perennial flowering plants in the family *Bromeliaceae* native to the forests, mountains and deserts of Central and South America, the southern United States, and the West Indies. *Tillandsia* are epiphytes, which means they grow without soil while and typically grow in the ground, on other plants, and on rocks. These plants absorb moisture and nutrients through the trichomes (small hairs) on their leaves from rain, dew, dust, decaying leaves and insect matter. Generally



*Tillandsia funkiana*  
Photo by Jerry Moreau  
Other photos by Andy Cuffel

speaking, air plants can be placed in two distinct classifications based on their native environments; xeric and mesic plants. This can sometimes be viewed as more of a spectrum than a category, but it's a good rule of thumb to start with:

### Mesic Plants

These plants are commonly found under a rainforest canopy or other



Andy with a prized winning *Tillandsia*

humid, densely covered forests. These plants generally do better with more frequent waterings and indirect light. These plants are considered the less hardy of the two classifications as they are not as tolerant of high light levels or extended periods of drought. These plants

are distinguished by smooth green leaves, the trichomes barely visible on the leaves. Species like *brachycaulos*, *bulbosa*, and *andreaana* are all good examples of mesic plants.

### Xeric Plants

Xeric plants generally grow at higher altitudes and are exposed to higher levels of light. Of the two plant types, xeric plants are considered a little hardier. These plants generally require less water and can tolerate higher light levels, including some direct sun light. These plants are characterized by pronounced trichomes which make the plants appear grey, silver, or fuzzy. Examples of xeric plants include *tectorum*, *xerographica*, and *caput-medusae*.



### Why don't air plants need soil or a pot?

Because air plants absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves and not their roots, there is not need to put them in soil and pot. In fact, many species will do poorly if placed in soil. The purpose of roots on air plants is to allow the plant to grow onto tree branches and rocks. If you mount your plants using glue or wire, you will see the air plant slowly grow onto that surface, and the roots are quite strong! If you desire, you may also cut off any

Continued next page

## Tillandsia continued

existing roots without bringing harm to the plant.

I would say I have lots of detailed info on my website people can reference, but it may be nice to include top 5 takeaways of sorts:

1) The most important thing to the health and success of a tillandsia is air flow. These plants prefer to be outside and require air flow to collect moisture and to prevent stagnant water from rotting the plant

2) Tillandsias run a spectrum of mesic (tropical) to xeric (dry climate). Knowing the differences between the two and how to identify the needs of a specific plant will help you make selections that are right for the environment you are using them in

3) I believe spraying your tillandsias is a more effective watering strategy than soaking your tillandsias. This will help prevent rot and will more closely mimic how they get water naturally. In general, about twice a week watering are required, sometimes more, sometimes less

4) Most tillandsias are determinate growers, meaning each plant only blooms once and then it slowly desiccates as the offsets it produces drain the mother of all remaining energy. These offsets or "pups" can be left on the mother or separated once they are half the size of the mother

5) Tillandsias can be displayed in a seemingly endless number of ways. You can use silicon based glues or wire (not copper wire) to mount them on or hang them from almost anything. Let your creativity run wild!

Check out Andy's website for more information

<https://cuffelfarms.com/>



*Tillandsia tenuifolia Amethyst*



*Tillandsia ionantha*



*Tillandsia limbata*  
Photos by Jerry Moreau



*Tillandsia compressa*  
Photos by Don Patterson

# Get Your Facts First

“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as much as you please...” Mark Twain

By Linda Sinkovic

At those times when I have no idea as to which subject I should write about, I wander into the shade houses and greenhouse to get some inspiration from the flowers. In early July (when I wrote this) two *Weberocereus* species were blooming. Since in the past I've only written a little about *Weberocereus*,<sup>1</sup> perhaps now is the time to discuss this genus.

This genus is named after F.A.C. Weber,<sup>2</sup> a French botanist who described *W. tunilla*<sup>3</sup> in 1902. With six species, *Weberocereus* is a small genus.<sup>4</sup> Most species grow in Costa Rica; *W. tunilla* ssp. *biolleyi* is also found in Panama. Most members of the genus are epiphytic, but *W. rosei* is epilithic, and grows in Ecuador.

I will talk about the few species of *Weberocereus* which I grow, starting with *W. bradei*.



*W. bradei* was first described in 1913 as *Eccremocactus bradei* by Britton and Rose. Due to its flat branches and growth habit, they considered it closely related to

the genus *Epiphyllum*.<sup>5</sup> They mention that its distribution is “...in dense forests at low altitudes, Costa Rica” and also comment it is a shy bloomer. Strangely, it has bloomed for me the last two years; however I have found it to be a slow grower.<sup>6</sup> My 2 year old plant currently consists of a single branch segment; as the plant grows, more segments will form and the plant will begin to (somewhat) resemble an *Epiphyllum*. There are small spines along the



*Weberocereus bradei*  
Flower and plant  
Photo by Jerry Moreau

edges of the branch segment. At about 2 inches long, the flowers look rather like an *Opuntia* flower and are cream colored with the outermost petals a light pinkish color.

In contrast, the flower of *W. frohningiorum* is definitely pink. The flower form is very similar to that of *W. bradei*. The branch segments have three wings, with slightly larger<sup>7</sup> spines on the edge of each wing.



There are also bristly hairs along each edge. My plant has branch segments about 7 inches in length, so this is not a small plant. First described in 2001, *W. frohningiorum* grows in forested mountain regions of San José province, Costa Rica.



*Weberocereus frohningiorum*  
Photos by Linda Sinkovic  
Unless noted



*Weberocereus imitans*  
Photo by Andreas Kittelmann

*Werckleocereus imitans* by Myron Kimmach and P.C. Hutchinson in 1956. Curt Backeberg moved it

Another *Weberocereus* from Costa Rica is *W. imitans*. Found in the southern part of the province of Puntarenas, in southwestern Costa Rica, *W. imitans* also went through many name changes. It was first described as

Continued next page

GYFF continued



*Weberocereus imitans*  
Photo by Rudolf Heßing Herick

to *Cryptocereus imitans* in 1959. In 1962 Kimmnach moved it to *Eccremocactus imitans*, because of the similarities to the flowers of other members of *Eccremocactus*.<sup>8</sup> In 1993 the International Cactaceae Systematics Group moved it to *Weberocereus imitans*.

The species name 'imitans' comes from the resemblance of the branches to those of *Disocactus anguliger* or *Selenicereus anthonyanus*. The branches are deeply lobed and look very similar to *Disocactus anguliger*. Although my plant has yet to flower, according to photos the flowers are similar to those of *W. bradei*. In the original 1956 description, there is a note that the plant grows well with 'much water' and that buds 'easily abort if the plant becomes dry'.<sup>9</sup> However there is also a mention the flowers smell like wet paint, so maybe it's a good thing my *W. imitans* plant hasn't flowered yet.<sup>10</sup>

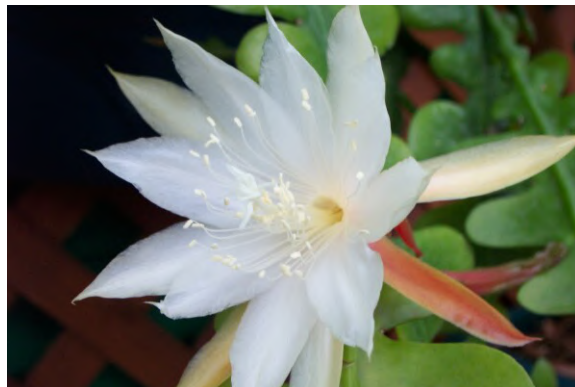
That's all for this month. Enjoy your garden. Stay healthy. Wear a mask.

#### Notes:

- \*1 Back in November 2014, with a small entry on *W. imitans*. I still haven't gotten it to flower.
- \*2 Frédéric Albert Constantin Weber, 1830-1903.
- \*3 Under the name *Cereus tunilla*.
- \*4 Some of the species which were originally in *Weberocereus* have been moved into *Selenicereus*. The current list of *Weberocereus* species: *W. bradei*, *W. frohningiorum*, *W. imitans*, *W. trichophorus*, *W. tunilla* ssp. *tunilla*, *W. tunilla* ssp. *biolleyi*.
- \*5 It appears that *Weberocereus* is more closely related to *Selenicereus*; the flat branches of *W. bradei* are a case of convergent evolutionary processes.
- \*6 Of course this might be due to the fact my shade house is probably a poor substitute for densely forested lowland Costa Rica.
- \*7 And very painful, even if they are small spines.
- \*8 That would be what are now called *Weberocereus bradei* and *Weberocereus rosei*.
- \*9 I'll have to try the "much watering" regime and see if I can get some flowers; I'll risk the wet paint smell.
- \*10 I have not noticed any scent, pleasant or otherwise, from the flowers of *W. bradei* or *W. frohningiorum*.

#### Resources:

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*Disocactus anguliger*  
Photo by Jerry Moveau

## SDES is an all volunteer organization and needs you!

We all get much from the Society and that starts from what we put into the Society.

How can you help out the society? Here are just a few possibilities.

### SDES needs a Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary has the following responsibilities:

- They will have charge of the general Society correspondence and shall route any other mail to the appropriate office or chair.
- They will answer all inquiries promptly.
- They will give report of correspondence at monthly Executive Board Meetings.
- They will perform duties of Recording Secretary if that officer is absent.
- And they will notify the Executive Board members of Board Meetings via email or phone.

**Volunteer at meetings or events.** This could be anything from bringing in food, setting up, cleaning up, welcoming in guest and new folks, or a friendly smile.

**Volunteer at sales, or offer to grow cuttings/plants for the society.** Check with Cindy Decker for her needs at upcoming sales.



'The Volunteers'  
Photo by Jose Almandoz

**Offer your garden such for an event** such as epi photo caravan or end of season epi party.

If you are interested in any of the above options, contact President Cindy Decker [President@sdepis.org](mailto:President@sdepis.org) 619-972-9664 or speak with her at a meeting.

**Take an interest in the newsletter.** Write articles, interview members, research information about epies... do you have any other ideas? Let us know! Contact the editors Jerry or Linda [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org)

**Safari Park Epi Volunteer.** Work with the epi collection and display at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. You can talk to Jerry Moreau about this volunteer opportunity. Details of "How To Become A Volunteer at the Safari Park" can be found on our website. Click on [SanDiegoEpi.com](http://SanDiegoEpi.com)



'Independence Rock'



'Irette'  
Photos by Jerry Moreau

 SDES  
50th Anniversary  
1970-2020

By Patricia Neal

2000-2010  
The New Millennium  
Part Two

Development and expansion  
of epi collection continued

The Wild Animal Park's Epiphyllum Display House saw renovations in the second half of the decade. In 2007 all the plants were removed so park staff could remove rust and paint all the pipes. Afterwards SDES volunteers re-hung plants and redesigned the entry bays to feature epicacti species. In addition, new sliding gates were installed at both ends of the display house to help keep out deer.



*Dressed in their official zoo volunteer red shirts, Ron and Velma Crain, Sandra Chapin, Jerry Moreau, Yogi and Carol La Blanc and Bob Buchs staffed the Epiphyllum display house at the Park during the Association of Zoological Horticulture Conference in 2010. It was only the second time the San Diego Zoo has hosted the annual AZH Conference which includes zoos and aquariums throughout the U.S. Less than 10 percent of the 2,800 wildlife exhibitors licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture qualify for the standards of AZA accreditation.*



*Photo by Jerry Moreau*

*(Above) Cindy Decker and Beth Jackson move pots and hangers from the old workhouse – named “The Howard Jones Epiphyllum House.” Howard Jones was a charter member of the society, a hybridizer and SDES' first park coordinator. He was instrumental in working with park horticulturist Jim Gibbons in building the first lathhouses and expanding the collection. This workhouse was torn down in 2011.*

*(Right) Sam Peebles measures, cuts and hangs new wire for displaying the plants after the pipes were painted in 2007.*



*Photo by Jerry Moreau*

 **SDES**  
**50th Anniversary**  
**1970-2020**

**Memorial Bench**  
**Dedicated**  
**in Epi Display House**

In December 2010, a dedication ceremony was held for the Memorial and Appreciation Bench in the display house at the Safari Park. The bench is dedicated to all epi lovers – past, present and future. Coordinated by Mildred Mikas, funding for the bench was reached in only two and a half years.

The bench was in the display house until 2017 when the house was eventually demolished. In 2018 it was placed in the Epiphyllum Trail where it is today.



*Elizabeth Glover, Mildred and Gerry Mikas, Sandra Chapin, Bill Greene and Jean Costanzo pose with the memorial bench at the dedication ceremony in December 2010.*

**The SDES Memorial Bench is a reality! Dedication-December 12.**

**Installation of the beautiful bench is completed.**

The Dedication of our Bench at the San Diego Zoo's Safari Park (formerly Wild Animal Park) will be on Sunday, **December 12, 2010**. The dedication will begin at **10:30 a.m.** in our Epiphyllum House. We scheduled this time so you could enjoy the rest of the day at the Park. If you would like to attend and need an admission ticket please call me (760-690-1124) and one will be provided.

For those of you who are unable to attend, we hope you will enjoy this photo of our beautiful teak bench. It is



located in the front of our species collection as you enter the Epiphyllum House.

Please stop by on your next trip to the Safari Park; have a seat on

our Memorial/Appreciation Bench, rest, and enjoy the epies in bloom. Once again, **Thank You all** for your support.

—Mildred Mikas

**Memorial Bench Donors:** 

June Allison	Peter & Michelle Hissong
Barb Alvarez	Vickie Head
Alice Boe	Judy Johnson
Cliff & Patty Brayshaw	Katie Lutz
Marjorie Burlingame	Lourdes Mack
Aubrey Rose Cheney	Jerry & Betsy Markle
Chekwa Gardens @ Barona	Michal McKee
George & Victoria Chapman	Nell McChesney
Chapman	Echard Meier
Jean Costanzo	Eliot Mikas
Matt & Karen Cheney	Keith & Heayoung Mikas
Sandra Chapin	Gerry & Mildred Mikas
Velma & Ron Crain	Xavier Mikas
Cindy Decker	Jerry Moreau
Jeanette Dutton	Marj Myers
Marie Dempewolf	Pat Neal
Mischa & Leny Dobrotin	Jim Nones
Gail Eisele	Debra O'Connor
Dick & Bonetta France	Derek Obayashi
Dolores Fangon	Sam & Mary Peebles
Winnie & Marcel French	Allen Pellymounter
Bill Greene	The Plaisted Family
Elizabeth Glover	Linda Sinkovic
Alexa Hissong	Mark Sumpter
Annie Hoyle	San Carlos Garden Club
Jeff & Julie Hilbers	South Bay Epi Society
Katelyn Hissong	Larry Taylor
	Diane Thomas
	Janine & Tim Topell
	Mrs. Wadsworth
	Janice Wakefield

**2010 Memorial Bench Donors**

Barb Alvarez	Eliot Mikas
Alice Boe	Keith and Heayoung Mikas
Cliff and Patty Brayshaw	Gerry and Mildred Mikas
Marjorie Burlingame	Xavier Mikas
Sandra Chapin	Jerry Moreau
Chekwa Gardens at Barona	Marj Myers
George and Victoria Chapman	Pat Neal
Jean Costanzo	Jim Nones
Aubrey Rose Cheney	Debra O'Connor
Matt and Karen Cheney	Derek Obayashi
Velma and Ron Crain	Sam and Mary Peebles
Cindy Decker	Allen Pellymounter
Jeanette Dutton	The Plaisted Family
Marie Dempewolf	Linda Sinkovic
Mischa and Leny Dobrotin	San Carlos Garden Club
Gail Eisele	South Bay Epiphyllum Society
Dick and Bonetta France	Larry Taylor
Dolores Fangon	Diane Thomas
Winnie and Marcel French	Mrs. Wadsworth
Bill Greene	Janice Wakefield
Elizabeth Glover	
Alexa Hissong	Donations received in memory of:
Annie Hoyle	Barbara Karan
Jeff and Julie Hilbers	Carol Di Lorenzo
Katelyn Hissong	George and Madeline French
Peter and Michelle Hissong	Irene Sias
Vickie Head	Kate Van Aram
Judy Johnson	Ken Costanzo
Katie Lutz	Kirsten Pellymounter
Lourdes Mack	Nannette Greene
Jerry and Betsy Markle	Roger Chapin
Michal McKee	Bob Hayes
Nell McChesney	Vera Herbert
Echard Meier	

**San Diego Epiphyllum Society**  
**"Memorial & Appreciation Bench"**  
 Dedicated to All Epi Lovers  
 Past, Present & Future

Roger & Sandra Chapin  
 Gerry & Mildred Mikas  
 George & Madeline French  
 Elizabeth Glover, Wilbur Glover  
 Ken & Jean Costanzo, Mike Davis  
 Nannette Greene, Dick Kohlschreiber

*The brass plaque on the back of the bench honors 13 people who were recognized by special donations made in their names. All donors are remembered on a large separate framed poster with a red epi as background.*

 **SDES**  
**50th Anniversary**  
 1970-2020

Two new awards established  
 to recognize members

In 2010 two new awards were established to recognize the contributions of society members.

One is the “Roger Chapin Memorial Trophy” that recognizes outstanding volunteer service. First to receive the award was Ron and Velma Crain.


The other is the “Rookie of the Year” award given to a member of less than three years who has dived in to become an active, contributing member. Jeff Hilbers was first to be recognized as the “Rookie of the Year.”



*Sandra Chapin and her daughters donated the new perpetual trophy named the “Roger Chapin Memorial Trophy” in honor of her late husband. Roger was a member for 13 years and served as president, board director and coordinator at the park. He also taught the pre-meeting workshop and participated in shows and sales at many events.*



Above: Ron and Velma at the ESA Show in 2008.

**Jeff Hilbers awarded 2010 “Rookie of the Year”** 

SDES started a new award this year. The “Rookie of the Year” award is for a member of less than three years, who has jumped in and contributed the most. For 2010 Jeff Hilbers was awarded the coveted black pot, decorated with painted epies and fancy writing. Jeff has been a member for two years. He has been great help at the WAP with his construction skills as well as his plant knowledge. He volunteers his truck to haul supplies to and from the show. He is present at almost every work and cutting party. When our recording secretary had to step down, Jeff took over with flair and humor. His enthusiasm, hard work and his great sense of humor are really appreciated. Thanks, Jeff, you really deserve to be the first recipient. You have set the bar high.

*(Left) Ron and Velma Crain received the first Roger Chapin Memorial Award at the December 2009 banquet. They were chosen for their participation as society officers, work at the Safari Park and at special events. Ron also teaches the pre-meeting workshops.*

Two categories added to Mother’s Day Show Awards



Two new categories were added to the Mother’s Day Show in the first decade of the new millennium – best seedling in 2008 and best George French hybrid in 2004.

The George French Collection Award is open to anyone growing George French’s hybrids. The first winner of the award was George’s daughter Kathy Elliott with a bloom of “Veneta”, a beautiful large yellow flower with green throat; a rare yellow result of his prolific cross of “Clown” x “Lady Ruffles.”

Phil and Jill Peck won the first award for the best seedling award in 2008. Unfortunately, the cross was not recorded, and we have not yet found a photo of the flower.

Photo by Gilbert Hatfield

 **SDES**  
**50th Anniversary**  
**1970-2020**

*SDES celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> birthday with city recognition and thanks*

**Congratulations from San Diego's Mayor**

**Congratulations to the San Diego Epiphyllum Society 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

November 10, 2010

On behalf of the citizens of San Diego, it is my pleasure to congratulate the San Diego Epiphyllum Society on the occasion of your 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

For 40 years now, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has served as a distribution center for various community fairs. The extensive community involvement the Society has exhibited over the years has greatly developed public support in the San Diegan community.

I would also like to recognize the work the Society has done to maintain the Epiphyllum (epi) houses and the epi collection at the San Diego Safari Park. With over 1,500 plants, the display is the largest public display of epis in North America and possible the second-largest display in the world. Through the Society's study and growing of epiphyllums, you have facilitated a beautiful community. The Society's work and many years of service to San Diego is truly commendable.

Please accept my best wishes for an exciting and memorable 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
 Jerry Sanders  
 Mayor

**San Diego Epiphyllum Day**  
 Presented by Councilmember Todd Gloria

**WHEREAS**, The San Diego Epiphyllum Society is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Balboa Park as part of the San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation, this November 10, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, The San Diego Epiphyllum Society as a non-profit organization with the purpose to encourage the study and growing of epiphyllums, epiphytic cacti species and related species, SDES works to develop public support and facilitate the exchange of ideas on growing, displaying, and collecting epiphyllums and related epiphytic species; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society organizes its annual two-day Mother's Day Show and Sale in Balboa Park and also organizes, presents and hosts every sixth year, an international epiphyllum convention where epiphyllum experts and enthusiasts from all over the world meet to exchange information about newly introduced hybrids, advanced propagation techniques and other developments in the culture of epiphytic cacti; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Diego Epiphyllum Society has continued for over thirty years to maintain and increase the epiphyllum collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park into one of the largest public displays of epiphyllums and epiphytic cacti species in the world; and

December, 2010 SDES Epi News Page 4

**What a Birthday Bash!**

—Sandra Chapin



The 40th anniversary of SDES was celebrated in grand style on November 10th 2010. Over 60 people attended our gala. One of our founding members, Gladys Harper was there as well as three members who joined that night. The rest of us ranged in between. We had a fantastic potluck (apparently plant people are also good cooks.) Bob Buchs organized and coordinated the program. Highlights of the last forty years were the Mother's Day shows and the beginning of the Wild Animal Park display. Stephen Hill, representing council-member Todd Gloria's office, read a statement that proclaimed November 10, 2010 was "Epiphyllum Day" in San

Diego. We also had a congratulatory letter from Mayor Jerry Sanders. Our annual photo contest was held, so we had beautiful pictures of epis. There were displays of other awards and trophies from past years. Jean Costanzo brought in two of her off-season bloomers. Sandra Chapin was delighted to have an 'Epi Society' bloom to display. It has been a wonderful forty years and the society is looking forward to the next forty.



*Pictured above: Bob Buchs—Emcee Far Right: President Sandra Chapin receives proclamation from Stephen Hill. Below: Entire party of members, guests and friends. If you are not in this picture, you missed a great party!*



**SDES Polo Shirts**



SDES polo shirts with embroidered epi flower made their debut in the new millennium. Modeling the shirts at a variety of events are (from left to right) Barb Alvarez, Betsy and Jerry Markle, Marj Myers, Pat Neal and Bill Greene.

# Keep In Touch



Members are the most important part of our society. The epies are what bind us. Together we create more beauty for all to enjoy. As in any group, we are more potent together. Lifelong friendships are made in the society. Knowledge, plants, and passions are shared between members. Mostly, fun is had by all. We have members all over the world.

We want to keep in touch with you. If you know of a member who can no longer attend meetings and/or events, we can send a cheery card to let them know they are missed. If there is a member who is having a milestone birthday we can send happy birthday wishes. If there is a member who is ill or a member who has passed away, we can send a get well or sympathy card. Why? Because we care about each other.

Keep in touch with us. Let us know what is going on in your garden. Have questions? Ask us. Have growing tips? Share with us. Want to see something in the newsletter? Tell us.

This year we still have activities planned... although a bit differently, due to COVID-19. Join us for online meetings & programs. There is also our ongoing volunteer work with the epi collection at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, where we work to display and preserve epicacti hybrids and epiphytic cacti species and to educate the public about these plants. Come join us for an hour, a day, a month, or all year! Your support means everything.

Want to write an article, have an idea for a program, or just want to join the fun? Please let us know how you want to get involved. We want to hear from you. We could not exist without you. We are greater because of you.

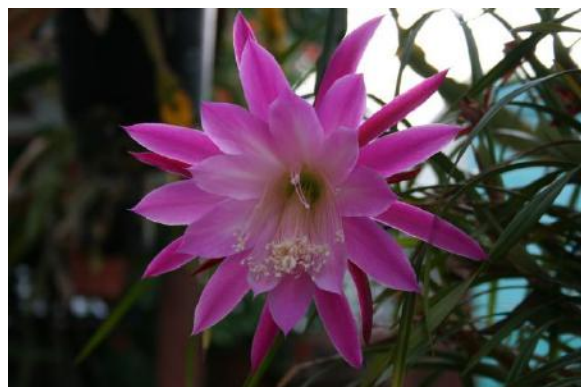
Corresponding Secretary [Corresponding@sdepis.org](mailto:Corresponding@sdepis.org)

Membership Secretary Beth Jackson at 858-692-0314 or [Membership@sdepis.org](mailto:Membership@sdepis.org)

Newsletter Editors Jerry Moreau at 619-208-7654 and Linda Sinkovic at [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org)



'Balboa'



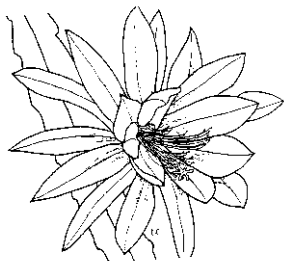
'Silence' a 1956 Fort and O'Barr hybrid that will sometimes have twisted growth.



'Elmira'

A George French hybrid  
named for  
**Ellen & Michael Rachfahl**  
of Germany

Photos by Jerry Moreau



As a benefit to members here is a list of resources for members. This list will continue to grow. If you know of any resources you would like to have included, contact the editors.

### Bookstore:

Cactus Bookstore — Chuck Everson  
<http://www.cactusbookstore.com/>



### Epi Nurseries:

Epi Galleria — Mark Piette  
<http://www.epigalleria.com/>

### Plant Societies:

#### Epiphyllum Society of America

ESA promotes the cultivation of Epiphyllums and other epiphytic cactus species, and provides support and education to growers. ESA administers the International Registry for hybrids and species of the Tribe Hylocereeae. Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the first Tuesday of every month except in December or January- at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA in the Bamboo Room.

<http://epiphyllums.org/>

#### San Diego Bromeliad Society

2nd Saturday of the month @ 10:00 am  
 Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, room 104  
<http://www.sandiegobromeliadsociety.org/>

#### South Bay Epiphyllum Society

2nd Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 PM  
 South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula CA, 90275

## Resources

Epiphyllum World — Don Cravalho  
<http://stores.ebay.com/epiphyllum-world>

Garden Jewels Nursery — Katie Lutz  
<http://gardenjewelsnursery.com/>

Pacific Epiphyllum — Chris Welcher  
<http://www.pacificepiphyllum.com/>

Epi Haven <https://epihaven.com/>

Kakteen Haage — Ulrich Haage  
<http://www.kakteen-haage.de/>  
 Passionate gardener since 1685

#### San Francisco Epiphyllum Society

1st Thursday of the month @ 7:30 PM  
 The Strybing Arboretum /  
 San Francisco County Fair Building  
 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way  
 San Francisco, CA 94122  
<http://www.sfepi.org/>



**Do You Have Some  
 SDES Memorabilia  
 You No Longer Want or are willing  
 to share?**

*Help us fill in our history*

SDES is always interested in Society related memorabilia. Before you throw out these items, SDES would be happy to take them off your hands. In addition, if you have historic Society-related pictures that you would be willing to share but you still want to keep, they can be readily copied without harm and returned to you. In either case contact SDES president [President@sdepis.org](mailto:President@sdepis.org), the editors [EpiNews@sdepis.org](mailto:EpiNews@sdepis.org), Society historian [Historian@sdepis.org](mailto:Historian@sdepis.org), or any board member.